

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Varriale et al.

Group Art Unit: 1724

Serial No.: 09/675,464

Examiner: Thomas M. Lithgow

Filed: September 28, 2000

Deposit Account: 50-1196

Title: Method and Apparatus for Multistage
Liquid Filtration

Docket No.: 03768/09376

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

An Office Action was issued on September 24, 2002. The present Response to Restriction Requirement and Amendment is being filed with a one-month extension of time fee in order to make the present response due by November 24, 2002.

Remarks

In the September 24th Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of two inventions as described below:

- I. Claims 1-17 and 30-47, drawn to a multistage liquid filter, classified in class 210, subclass 266; and
- II. Claims 18-29, drawn to a process for filtering impurities from a liquid, classified in class 210, subclass 669.

Responsive to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, to continue prosecution on the invention of Group II, claims 18 -29, drawn to a process for filtering impurities from a liquid.

It is respectfully submitted that while the apparatus claims 1 - 17 and 30 - 47 might be classified in a class apart from the method claims 18 - 29, the additional effort in effecting a search for both inventions does not create a significant burden on the patent office. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that both sets of claims be examined simultaneously.

In summary, it is submitted that Applicants' claims presently in the application are sufficiently definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentably distinct over the prior art of record. Thus, it is submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action therefor is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should only minor issues remain after consideration of the present Amendment to permit early resolution of same.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-1196.

Respectfully requested,

NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH

November 19, 2002
Date



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